

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES NOVEMBER 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

READER NOTE: The October, November and December editions of the regional *Workforce Observations* will be the last editions to be printed in hardcopy and mailed by the Department of Workforce Development. Future editions will be placed on our website at http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/wda/wo_pubs.htm as they are currently posted here. One may sign up for monthly notification of publication updates via e-mail from this webpage. Please contact your local labor market analyst/economist if you have any questions.

October Unemployment Rates are Lower in Southeast

The **Racine MSA** unemployment rate in October decreased by half a percent point to 6.9 percent. This was the biggest monthly rate decrease of the three regional counties and is the sharpest drop in the unemployment rate for October since a seven-tenths of a point drop in 1992. Though the unemployment rate is higher compared to recent years, October's labor force dynamics were typical for this month. The unemployment rate is one-tenth of a point higher than in October 2002; the only regional county not to show an annual decrease in its rate.

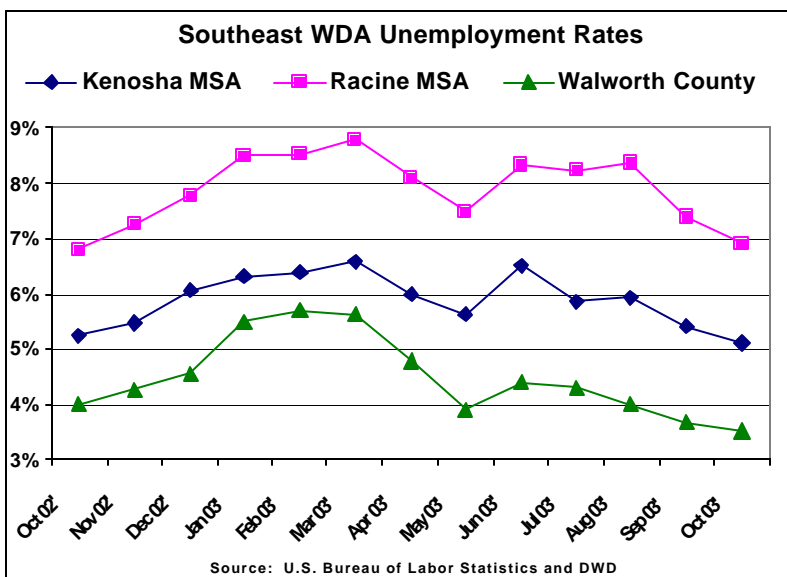
Racine County's industry employment picked up 100 more jobs monthly. This is a net increase that is centered in a 300 job increase in government employment (schools) offset by a 200 job loss in leisure and hospitality employment. Manufacturing employment decreased by 400 jobs. The overall rise in jobs goes against the trend of job decline in October. Annually, the county shows 1,100 more jobs compared to last October. The industry drivers behind this job growth were retail trade and education and health services. A very interesting note about Racine County: this is the thirteenth straight month to show no annual decline in total industry employment. A few industries, such as manufacturing, do continue to show annual employment loss.

The **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate in October was 5.1 percent. This is lower than September's rate and last October's rate by four-tenths and one-tenth of a percentage point, respectively. Annually, labor force components show 1,900 more employed Kenosha County residents compared to 10 more unemployed. This dynamic is very similar to previous

Octobers during the economic expansion of the 1990's, but it is still too soon to say the local economy is in full swing expansion at this moment; that day will come when the unemployment rate ticks downward and sustains lower rates.

Industry employment in Kenosha County grew slightly over the month by 200 jobs. Retail trade and education and health services grew by a combined 500 jobs, but was offset by losses in leisure and hospitality, manufacturing and wholesale trade

employment. The annual view shows a loss of 300 jobs in the county, which is by no means the largest job deficit this area has seen. Comparing this sluggish industry performance to that of an improving labor force probably reinforces the fact that many Kenosha residents keep their geographic options open in regards to employment which is expressed by great amount of commuting to Illinois.



Walworth County's unemployment rate improved to 3.5 percent, a drop of two-tenths. October's rate is five-tenths of a point lower than in October 2002. Walworth shows 930 fewer employed while also showing 150 fewer unemployed compared to September. This labor force contraction is quite typical for Walworth at this time of the year.

Walworth's industry employment shrank by about 700 jobs since September with the majority of the decline in leisure and hospitality employment (900 jobs). This was seasonal. Compared to last October, Walworth County has 100 fewer jobs. Most industries' employment was rather flat though slight gains were seen in education and health services and leisure and hospitality. These slight gains were offset by employment losses in manufacturing and business services. Business services reflect the demand for employees via temporary employment agencies.

October 2003	Wisconsin	Kenosha County/MSA	Racine County/MSA	Walworth County	Southeast WDA	City of Kenosha	City of Racine
Civilian Labor Force*	3,094,186	83,754	95,753	55,220	234,727	49,472	39,968
Persons Employed	2,953,354	79,467	89,154	53,275	221,896	46,468	35,633
Persons Unemployed	140,832	4,287	6,599	1,945	12,831	3,004	4,335
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	5.1%	6.9%	3.5%	5.5%	6.1%	10.8%
Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)	2,811.2	54.0	81.1	41.8	176.9		
Goods Producing Jobs	637.1	12.3	23.9	10.4	46.6		
Service Producing Jobs	2,174.1	41.7	57.2	31.4	130.3		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	127.6	2.4	4.1	1.9	8.4		
All Manufacturing	509.5	9.9	19.8	8.4	38.1		
Total Trade	441.7	9.5	13.0	5.2	27.7		
Wholesale Trade	119.0	1.9	3.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	322.7	7.6	10.0	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	106.3	1.6	1.8	1.3	4.7		
Financial Activities	158.4	1.7	2.7	1.0	5.4		
Education and Health Services	372.9	7.7	10.8	4.1	22.6		
Leisure & Hospitality	241.3	5.9	6.0	7.5	19.4		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	435.3	6.3	12.2	4.6	23.1		
Information	50.1	0.4	0.7	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	247.2	3.2	6.7	xx	xx		
Other Services	138.0	2.7	4.8	xx	xx		
All Government	418.2	9.0	10.7	7.8	27.5		
Change from September 2003							
Civilian Labor Force*	5,390	-500	-590	-1,080	-2,170	-370	-310
Persons Employed	15,550	-160	-90	-930	-1,180	-100	-40
Persons Unemployed	-10,160	-340	-510	-150	-990	-280	-280
Unemployment Rate	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.2%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.6%
Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)	20.2	0.2	0.1	-0.7	-0.3		
Goods Producing Jobs	-5.8	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1	-0.7		
Service Producing Jobs	26.0	0.3	0.6	-0.6	0.3		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-0.8	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1		
All Manufacturing	-5.0	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	-0.5		
Total Trade	5.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2		
Wholesale Trade	0.4	-0.1	-0.1	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	4.7	0.2	0.2	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Financial Activities	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1		
Education and Health Services	5.5	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.5		
Leisure & Hospitality	-7.6	-0.2	-0.2	-0.9	-1.3		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1		
Information	-0.3	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	-0.8	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	1.4	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	22.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.7		
Change from October 2002							
Civilian Labor Force*	77,930	1,900	4,000	1,060	6,950	1,040	1,500
Persons Employed	75,930	1,900	3,630	1,280	6,800	1,110	1,450
Persons Unemployed	2,000	10	370	-230	150	-70	50
Unemployment Rate	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.1%	-0.5%	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.3%
Total jobs in all non-farm industries** (thousands)	3.5	-0.3	1.1	-0.1	0.7		
Goods Producing Jobs	-24.7	-0.8	-0.2	-0.3	-1.3		
Service Producing Jobs	28.2	0.5	1.3	0.2	2.0		
Construction, Mining and Natural Resources	-6.7	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1		
All Manufacturing	-17.9	-0.8	-0.2	-0.3	-1.3		
Total Trade	10.1	0.8	0.7	0.0	1.5		
Wholesale Trade	4.3	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
Retail Trade	5.8	0.8	0.7	xx	xx		
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	-0.2		
Financial Activities	4.8	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3		
Education and Health Services	12.0	0.0	0.7	0.2	0.9		
Leisure & Hospitality	3.6	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.0		
Information, Professional and Business Services, Other Services	5.7	0.0	0.1	-0.2	-0.1		
Information	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	xx	xx		
Professional and Business Services	2.4	0.0	0.1	xx	xx		
Other Services	3.5	0.0	0.0	xx	xx		
All Government	-8.0	-0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.2		

* Labor force figures are **not** seasonally adjusted and are commonly revised. Figures from "place of residence" survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Local Area Unemployment Statistics program. **Figures based upon "place of employment" survey from the BLS, Non-Farm Wage and Salary estimates. Industry employment figures are in thousands and are rounded. "XX" indicates that data is suppressed and has been aggregated with other industries. **Month and year ago change figures are rounded and may not sum to total**

Questions and comments regarding this publication are welcome. Direct to: **Eric Grosso, State Labor Market Economist**
201 E. Washington Avenue, Room G200, Madison, Wisconsin 53703
608-266-7034 608-266-5887(FAX) E-mail: eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us
Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI